

Serial No. 09/731,501
Atty. Doc. No. 00P9039US

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the opportunity to revise and correct the Amendment and Request for Reconsideration that was filed on April 17, 2003. That paper amended claim 9 without taking into consideration the amendment that had been made to claim 9 in the paper filed on July 3, 2002. That oversight has been corrected in this Revised Amendment and Request for Reconsideration.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-20 have been rejected. Claims 9, 14, and 18 have been amended herein. In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

Rejection of Claims 1-20 Under § 102

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-12, 14, 16-18, and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on U.S. Patent No. 6,265,805B1 ("Debleser"). Claims 1-20 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on U.S. Patent No. 4,827,172 ("Kobayashi"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-20.

Method Claims 1-8

With regard to Applicants' method claims 1-8, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Debleser nor Kobayashi teaches or suggests a "method for tuning the torsional natural frequency of a rotor." In fact, neither Debleser nor Kobayashi includes any disclosure regarding a method of tuning a rotor. The references also specifically do not disclose a method for tuning a rotor by "forming . . . at least one tuning slot" as recited by independent method claims 1 and 5.

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As pointed out in Applicants' last response, conventional methods of tuning the torsional frequency of a rotor require adding weight and/or inertia to the rotor. These methods are costly in terms of both rotor size and weight. Applicants' claimed methods make it possible to tune a rotor's torsional frequency without necessarily adding such weight or inertia. Based on at least the above claimed differences between Applicants' method claims and Debleser and Kobayashi, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the rejection of method claims 1-8.

Apparatus Claims 9-20

With regard to Applicants' apparatus claims 9-20, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Debleser nor Kobayashi teaches or suggests a rotor having "tuning slots" as recited by independent claims 9, 14, and 18. Applicants' claimed "tuning slots" are sized and configured for the purpose of tuning a rotor. Applicants respectfully submit that the items identified by the Examiner in Debleser as tuning slots are actually "cooling channels" (see, e.g., col. 4, line 39 and item 27 in Fig. 2). Such cooling channels would necessarily be sized and configured to maximize cooling characteristics. In other words, conventional cooling channels are generally as wide as possible in order to maximize cooling characteristics without jeopardizing the strength of the rotor's teeth. Applicants' tuning slots, on the other hand, are sized and configured to achieve optimal tuning characteristics. Moreover, Applicants' tuning slots are positioned radially inward from either the bottom of the winding slot or the bottom of the cooling channel (if one is included), whichever is lower. This point has been clarified by the amendments to claims 9, 14, and 18 made above.

Based upon at least the above structural differences between Debleser and Kobayashi and Applicants' apparatus claims, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the rejection of apparatus claims 9-20.

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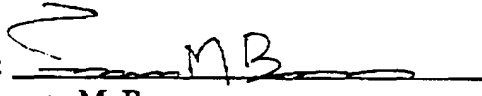
CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-20. Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this paper or application, or if any issues remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to resolve such issue or question.

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Aug. 11, 2003

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AUG 11 2003

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